

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/077,718

Examiner

Clark F. Dexter

Applicant(s)

BONE ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Board Decision mailed April 7, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 22-28.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/015,615.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael Schmidt on May 31, 2006.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims

Claims 22-28 have been rewritten as follows:

--22. (currently amended) A clamping mechanism for clamping an object, said clamping mechanism comprising:

a tool housing;

a rod attached to said tool housing;

a clamping arm rotatably mounted on the rod, said clamping arm being rotatable through 360° about an axis of rotation, ~~said clamping arm and said housing each defining a supporting surface~~ on each of said clamping arm and said tool housing for engaging said object;

a non-releasable one way rotary clutch positioned between and operatively engaging said rod and said clamping arm to permit the clamping arm to freely rotate in only one direction about the axis of rotation; and

the clamping arm having a centre mass spaced apart from the axis of rotation.

23. (currently amended) A clamping mechanism according to Claim 22 wherein the clamping mechanism further comprises a support member attached to said tool housing, said support member including said supporting surface of said housing.

24. (currently amended) A clamping mechanism according to Claim 23 wherein the support member comprises a slide element, the slide element being slidably mounted on the tool housing, wherein the clamping arm is rotatably mounted on the slide element so that the sliding movement of the slide element and clamping arm guides the object held between the slide element ~~support member~~ and the clamping arm.--.

25. (original) A clamping mechanism according to Claim 22 wherein the clamping arm is adapted to be mountable on a saw via a reversing slip clutch which allows the clamping arm to rotate in the reverse direction to the direction of free rotation of the rotary one way clutch if a reverse torque is exerted on the clamping arm which exceeds a specified threshold.

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26. (original) A clamping mechanism according to Claim 25 wherein the one way rotary clutch and the reverse slip clutch are co-axially mounted.

27. (currently amended) A clamping mechanism according to Claim 22 wherein the clamping arm is made from a plastic[[s]] material having a metal weight located towards an end of the clamping arm distant from the one way rotary clutch.

28. (original) A clamping mechanism according to Claim 22, wherein the clamping arm has a holding surface and an end distant from the one way rotary clutch, the distant end having a curvature lying in a plane, so that the curvature direction of the clamping arm end is opposite to the curvature direction of the holding surface.--.

Remarks

3. The above changes have been made to claims 22-24 to further clarify the claimed invention. The above change to claim 27 has been made to correct a grammatical informality. Withdrawn claims 25, 26 and 28 have been rejoined.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

It is noted that, in addition to the findings of the Board of Appeals and Interferences, the prior art of record, either taken alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed invention, particularly a tool housing as claimed. For

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example, the structure 10 of Stoll, pn 2,175,488 that corresponds in the rejections to the claimed housing cannot be considered to be a tool housing (i.e., a housing that holds, protects or otherwise houses a tool).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clark F. Dexter whose telephone number is (571)272-4505. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer D. Ashley can be reached on (571)272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Clark F. Dexter
Primary Examiner
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cf
June 1, 2006